

I believe United States Trade Negotiator Robert Zoellick and his team deserves much of the credit for the success of Doha.

By skillfully engineering compromise where compromise did not appear possible, Ambassador Zoellick has helped to set the table for important gains to come in international trade.

Thanks to Ambassador Zoellick and President Bush's leadership on trade, the future for US agricultural exporters is brighter, prospects for improvement in the transparency of the WTO are better, and the commitment of all nations to help end the scourge of HIV/AIDS and other is more secure. The liberalization of international trade is back on track.

He and his staff were also instrumental in achieving the accessions of China and Taiwan at the Doha Ministerial Meeting.

I also want to highlight two important other achievements of the Doha Ministerial.

First, China acceded to the WTO. This culminates the more than 20 years of economic reform in that country, and, I think, places China squarely on the path toward greater political reforms. We should congratulate Ambassador Zoellick for his leadership on that score.

Finally, I want to say a special word of congratulation to the people of Taiwan for achieving WTO accession at Doha. Taiwan's membership in international organizations such as the WTO is an important recognition of her current and future contributions.

Taiwan is a critical member of the international community. The WTO, and other global institutions, are better off for Taiwan's membership.

Ambassador Zoellick and Assistant USTR Jeff Bader deserve special recognition for ensuring Taiwan's entry into the WTO over the potential objections of the other newest member of that organization.

This was a good week for international trade. I hope that the United States Congress will follow up on the successes of this week and provide the President with the authority he needs to negotiate new trade agreements.

We need to capitalize on the gains made at Doha, and Trade Promotion Authority for the President is the critical tool he needs to do just that.

I am hopeful that the House will act on a bill to provide the President TPA this session, and that the Finance Committee will have the opportunity to mark-up that bill for a vote on the floor before we leave for the holidays.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a sig-

nal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred Aug. 24, 1997 in Leesburg, FL. A man allegedly punched a woman in the face because of her sexual orientation. The assailant, Kevin Earl Bilbrey, 25, was charged with aggravated battery and a hate crime.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### DIGNA OCHOA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to express the deep sadness and anger that I and many of my Vermont constituents feel about the senseless, cold-blooded murder of one of Mexico's most respected and courageous human rights lawyers, Digna Ochoa y Placido.

On October 20, 2001, Ms. Ochoa was shot at near point blank range in her office. At her side was a note that threatened other human rights activists who have defended environmentalists, labor leaders, or other unjustly imprisoned or tortured by the Mexican army and police. A former nun, Ms. Ochoa was a role model for all human rights defenders, because of her extraordinary courage, dedication, and commitment to some of the most disadvantaged members of Mexican society.

Ms. Ochoa frequently put the people she represented ahead of her own personal safety, and was an easy target for those who represent the worst of society, who would threaten or kill the downtrodden to protect their own crimes. She had received many death threats, and in 1999 she was kidnapped twice. During one of those abductions, her kidnappers tied her to a chair, opened a gas canister, and left her to die as the fumes slowly filled the room—from which she narrowly escaped.

Digna Ochoa's death is a tragedy for all Mexicans. But it is particularly outrageous because it could have been avoided. Although it was widely known that threats and acts of violence were being carried out against her and other members of Prodh—the human rights organization where she worked—Mexican officials failed to investigate or prosecute those crimes.

It would be hard to overstate the optimism I felt when Vicente Fox was elected Mexico's President after 70 years of misrule by the PRI. This election meant that Mexico could begin to overcome years of official corruption, police brutality, injustice and poverty suffered by the fast majority of Mexico's population.

When President Fox took office, he promised to end the long history of abuses by the Mexican army and police. No one expected miracles. No one

expected him to transform those secretive, corrupt and brutal institutions overnight. But it is the Government's first duty to protect its citizens, and people did expect him to make justice a priority, get rid of the old guard, and demand accountability.

That has not happened, at least not yet, and Digna Ochoa's death has, tragically, focused attention again on this festering problem. There are undoubtedly many others who have suffered similar fates—faceless Mexican who are not widely known, who have been threatened or murdered, or who languish in prison without access to justice.

To his credit, on November 9 President Fox ordered the release from prison of two ecologists, represented by Ms. Ochoa in the past, who never should have been imprisoned in the first place. For possessing the courage to try to stop the destruction of forests where they lived, they were arrested and allegedly tortured.

The destruction of tropical forests is an urgent problem from Indonesia to Latin America, as logging companies compete for profits until the forests are completely destroyed. Often, the militaries in these countries are directly involved in these destructive, yet lucrative, schemes, and do not hesitate to kill or frame those who get in their way because they have known only impunity.

However, besides releasing these two men, the Mexican Government has done little to respond to Ms. Ochoa's death. A truth commission to examine past human rights abuses has not been established. That is presumably because it requires challenging some of the most entrenched, powerful, and dangerous forces within Mexican society. Nevertheless, President Fox made this promise, and that is what is urgently needed.

Another troubling case is the imprisonment of Brigadier General Jose Francisco Gallardo, who was convicted of corruption based on evidence that is, at best, inconclusive. Many observers feel that the main reason he is in prison and the Mexican Government continues to oppose his release is because he spoke out about abuses in the military. President Fox must deal with this case immediately.

I am convinced that President Fox is the right leader for Mexico at this critical time, and I have confidence in him and his advisors. I do not minimize the herculean tasks they face—political, economic and social reform on a national scale. But there is no way democracy can succeed in Mexico without the rule of law. And there is no better place to start than by tracking down Digna Ochoa's killers, and bringing them to justice for all to see.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a piece written by Digna Ochoa, about her life, which was included in Kerry Kennedy Cuomo's extraordinary book "Speak Truth To Power," be printed in the RECORD.